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***Manner: HOMICIDE***

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A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The person thus responsible for the injuries may be charged with murder or manslaughter by the prosecuting attorney, or the prosecuting attorney may decline to file charges. During 1999, 89 deaths were classified as homicide. This number represents 6% (89/1468) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 1999. Of these 89 homicides, 82 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. There were 90 homicides investigated in 1998, of which 78 were incidents occurring in King County.

Reviewing weapons responsible for homicidal death shows that 58% (52/89) were firearms, compared to 1998, when 61% (55/90) were due from firearms. There were 10% (9/89) of deaths due to impact injuries. Twenty-one percent, (19/89) of the homicidal victims died as a result of stabbing by a sharp-edged instrument, generally a knife. There were three (3) deaths due to strangulation/asphyxia. Six (6) deaths were due to other homicidal means.

One homicide victim, a child was ten months old. Another child homicide victim was between one and five years of age. Two (2) homicide victims were between six and twelve years of age. Twelve (12) homicide victims were between the ages of 13 and 19 years.

Examining racial distribution of victims of homicide, 33% (29/89) of the victims were black, compared to 1998, when 27% (24/90) of the victims were black. This is an over-representation in King County where, according to 1999 Census estimates<sup>1</sup>, blacks make up approximately 5% of the county's population. Whites made up 53% (47/89) of the homicide victims, compared to 83% of the population. The remaining 15% (13/89) included Asians/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and others. Men comprised 71% (63/89) and women 29% (26/89) of the victims. The majority of victims, 47% (42/89) were between the ages of 20 and 39 years. Young people 19 years old and under comprised 18% (16/89) of the homicide victims, which compared to 1998, when youths represented 23% (21/90). Ninety three percent (83/89) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 31% (26/83) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 89 homicidal deaths within 1999, ninety-two percent (22/89) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County and of these deaths, 55 occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In 7 of the 89 homicidal deaths the fatal incident occurred outside of King County. However, the victims were transported to area hospitals within county lines prior to death justifying King County Medical Examiner jurisdiction upon death.

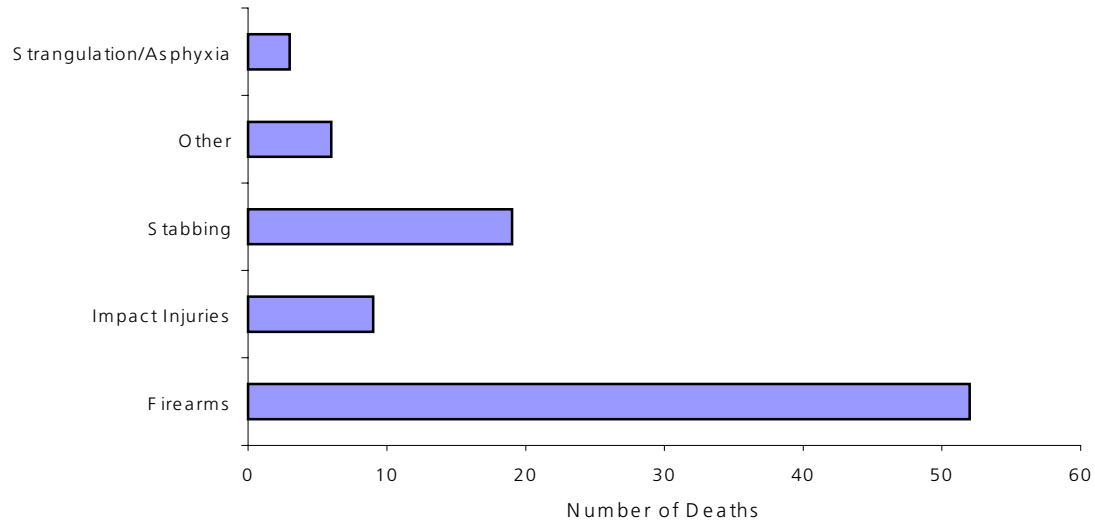
The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

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<sup>1</sup>This is the most current Census estimation at this time.

Graph 4-1

Homicidal Methods in 1999



**Table 4-1 Homicidal Methods and Race of the Victim**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	3	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	3	0	0	0	0	3	
Firearms	22	23	4	1	2		52
<i>Male</i>	19	16	2	0	2	39	
<i>Female</i>	3	7	2	1	0	13	
Impact Injuries	7	0	1	1	0		9
<i>Male</i>	6	0	1	1	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Stabbing	12	5	1	1	0		19
<i>Male</i>	7	5	0	1	0	13	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	1	0	0	6	
Other	3	1	1	0	1		6
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	0	1	3	
Total	47	29	7	3	3		89
Percent	52.8	32.6	7.9	3.4	3.4		

**Table 4-2 Homicidal Methods and Age Group of the Victim**

METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Firearms	0	0	1	0	7	17	8	12	7	0	0	0	0		52
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	6	15	7	8	3	0	0	0	0	39	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	13	
Impact Injuries	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0		9
<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Stabbing	0	0	0	2	2	3	6	5	1	0	0	0	0		19
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	2	1	3	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	15	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Other	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		6
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Total	1	1	2	2	10	24	18	20	9	1	1	0	0		89
Percent	1	1	2	2	11	27	20	22	10	1	1	0	0		

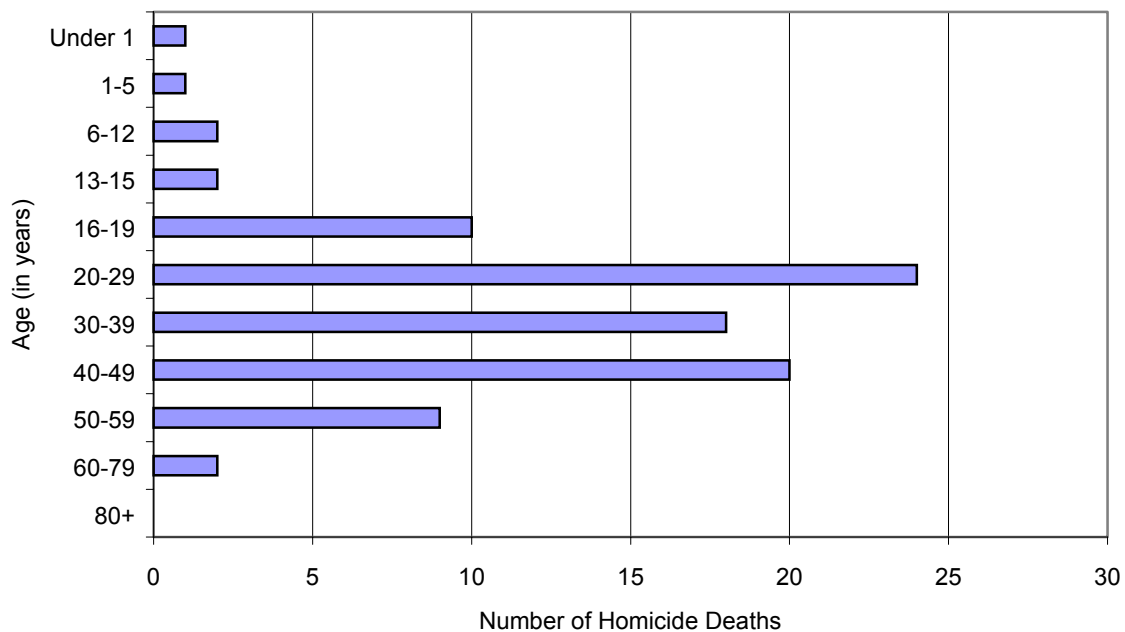
**Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths and Race of the Victim****Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths and Age Group of the Victim**

Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD	AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Asphyxia/ Strangulation								
White	0	0	0	3	0	0		3
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	
Firearm								
White	0	2	4	3	10	3		22
Male	0	2	4	3	9	2	20	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	
Black	1	3	11	4	2	2		23
Male	0	2	9	4	0	1	16	
Female	1	1	2	0	2	1	7	
Asian	0	1	1	0	0	2		4
Male	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Native American	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Other	0	1	1	0	0	0		2
Male	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Impact Injuries								
White	1	1	1	0	1	3		7
Male	1	1	1	0	1	2	6	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Asian	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender (Cont...)

METHOD	AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
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	UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+	
<b>Stabbing</b>							
White	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
Male	0	1	1	2	3	0	7
Female	2	1	0	1	1	0	5
Black	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
Male	0	0	2	1	1	1	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native American	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>							
White	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Male	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Black	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL BY AGE	6	10	24	18	20	11	89

**Table 4-4 Homicidal Methods and Gender of the Victim**

METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	3	3
Firearms	39	13	52
Impact Injuries	8	1	9
Stabbing	13	6	19
Other	3	3	6
Total	63	26	89
Percent	71	29	

**Table 4-5 Homicidal Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Victim**

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	1	2	0	3
Firearms	12	36	4	52
Impact Injuries	3	5	1	9
Stabbing	8	10	1	19
Other	2	4	0	6
Total	26	57	6	89
Percent	29	64	7	